



# THE SHELTON STATEMENT

Summer/Fall 1999

A Publication of Shelton State Community College

Volume 7 No. 1

The SHELTON STATEMENT is published by the Office of Public Relations and Alumni Affairs – Shelton State Community College  
9500 Old Greensboro Road • Tuscaloosa, AL 35405 • (205) 391-2221

## 12 MONTHS TO MIDNIGHT

### *Berendt Comes To Tuscaloosa*

**NOTED AUTHOR** John Berendt will be at Shelton State Community College on September 23 as part of the college's Millennium celebration. Berendt's first book, **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil**, was a publishing phenomenon, breaking all records for longevity on *The New York Times* Best Seller Lists for both fiction and non-fiction over a four-year period.

Sponsored by Shelton State Community College in cooperation with the Tuscaloosa Public Library, the event will be held at 7 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre located on the college's new Martin Campus. A reception honoring Mr. Berendt will be held in the Atrium of the college immediately following the lecture. Copies of Mr. Berendt's book will be available for purchase, and there will be an opportunity for autographs.

The cost for the evening is \$20, and all tickets are reserved. Tickets may be purchased by calling Shelton's Public Relations office, (205) 391-2221 or 391-2252, Theatre Tuscaloosa, (205) 391-2277, or A Novel Approach, (205) 758-3979.

Tickets may also be ordered through the mail by sending a check to: **John Berendt Performance, Shelton State Community College, Box 199, 9500 Old Greensboro Highway, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405.**

Berendt was born in Syracuse, New York, in 1939. In 1961, he grad-



uated from Harvard College, where he was an editor of the **Harvard Lampoon**. His work on the **Lampoon** attracted the attention of the editor of **Esquire** who hired him as an associated editor, a position he held from 1961-1969. From 1969 until 1973, Berendt served as a television producer and writer. In 1977 he returned to magazines, serving as editor of **New York Magazine** until 1979 and writing a monthly column for **Esquire** from 1982-1994.

**Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil** is the account of the notorious 1981 murder case in Savannah, Georgia, and depicts the gentility and eccentricity of a

city and characters that turned a weekend excursion into a seven-year project.

**Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil** has sold over 2,500,000 copies, won the 1994 Southern Book Award and was one of three finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in non-fiction. The book has been published in 24 foreign editions.

In 1997, Warner Brothers motion picture, **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil**, directed by Clint Eastwood, opened in theaters across the United States.

For additional information on John Berendt's appearance, call Shelton State, 391-2221.

## Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame

**T**heatre Tuscaloosa and Shelton State Community College's Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame inducted its first honorees in April at a ceremony in Shelton's Bean-Brown Theatre in the College's Fine Arts Centre.

Honored during the hour-long ceremony were the late Tallulah Bankhead, Mr. and Mrs. Winton M. Blount, and actress/author Fannie Flagg. Created to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts through theatre, television or film, the Stage and Screen Hall of Fame Gala included performances by eight Theatre Tuscaloosa company members: Drew Baker, Ava Buchanan, Kathy Wilson, Greg Hagler, Brent Jones, Charles Prosser and Ray Taylor. The group presented five musical numbers arranged especially for the evening by Dr. Steve Sample. The 17-piece orchestra was conducted by Steve Sample, Jr. Greg Thornton, a long-time member to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival acting company, presented a monologue, and the entire evening was hosted by Birmingham news anchor, Fran Curry.

Following a recording made by the late Tallulah Bankhead, Tina Fitch of the Theatre Tuscaloosa staff, presented a brief biography of the Huntsville native concluding with the remarks, "However she is remembered, as the throaty,

sexy, beautiful, video-genic actress, or the flamboyantly vulgar, endearingly wicked, witty comedienne – Tallulah Bankhead is to most, forever, im-

mortal. Tallulah, if you're out there listening to us tonight...welcome home, dahlin', welcome home."

In 1985, Winton and Carolyn Blount constructed a new home for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery, thereby insuring the future of one of the southeast's most prized cultural institutions. Theatre Tuscaloosa managing director Doug Perry presented the award to Mr. & Mrs. Blount. In his remarks, Perry noted that "their gift to the people of the State of Alabama, and indeed the nation, of the Carolyn Blount Theatre and the Winton M. Blount Cultural Park, remains unparalleled. The magnitude of their gifts and their impact on the quality of life in our state leaves us all humbled."

Following monologues from her books, *Coming Attractions* and *Welcome to the World, Baby Girl*, Paul K. Looney, executive producer of Theatre Tuscaloosa, paid tribute to Fannie Flagg, recalling having directed her as Mrs. Hannigan in Birmingham Summerfest's production of *Annie*. "I think the thing that makes her so special to me is that she showed me the power and wonder that a great performance can have," Looney said.

Flagg, a native of Irondale, has been an actress, television host, comedian, screenwriter, and book author. Best known as the author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*, she was nominated for an Academy Award for her screenplay which starred Jessica Tandy and Kathy Bates. Her most recent book, *Welcome to the World, Baby Girl*, has appeared on the *New York Times* best-seller list.

The Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame ceremony concluded with the entire company of musical performers, presenters and honorees taking the stage in a rendition of *There's No Business Like Show Business*.

### INSIDE...

Shelton's Best .....	2
Shelton Looks To Future .....	3
Shelton State's Millennium Moments .....	3
Community Support Continues .....	4



**S**ix Shelton State employees were elected this past spring by college personnel to represent Shelton State in the annual Chancellor's Awards ceremony. Individuals elected were the following: Brenda Ryan, academic faculty; Dennis Crim, technical faculty; Louise Lewis, administration; Judy Johnson, support staff; and Jean Mack and Martha Key, alumni.

## BRENDA RYAN

Moundville native **Brenda Ryan** joined the Shelton faculty in 1981. She serves as the chair of the Honors Night Committee and as an advisor of Shelton's Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society chapter. She has been actively involved in Shelton's freshmen orientation entitled STAR days, (Student Testing Interpretation, Advising, and Registration days).

Mrs. Ryan is a member of Kappa Delta Epsilon and Delta Kappa Gamma, women educators' honorary organizations. She is a member of Leadership Hale County and is a member of the Moundville Serendipity Club and the Moundville Library Board.

A member of Moundville Methodist Church, Mrs. Ryan has served as co-director of "The Road to Calvary," the Moundville community Easter sunrise service, since 1974.

## DENNIS CRIM

**Dennis Crim**, lawn and turf instructor at Shelton State, is a graduate of Auburn University and held a number of positions with various country clubs in the state before joining Shelton State Community College. He is a former president of the Alabama Turf Grass Association and holds a certified commercial pesticide applicator's license.

Perhaps Crim's most significant contribution while at Shelton State has been his work with the college's landscaping. Crim and his students have been responsible this past year for the installation of sod, plants, and upkeep of the college landscaping.

## LOUISE LEWIS

**Louise Lewis** came to Shelton from C.A. Fredd Technical College during the merger of the two institutions in 1993. Since 1996 she has served as Title III director and assistant director of the Fredd Campus. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama and Alabama State University.

She is a graduate of Leadership Tuscaloosa and is a deputy registrar for Tuscaloosa County. She is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Tuscaloosa League of Women Voters. She received training with the Advanced Public Policy Institute Training Kettering Foundation and received a Zenger Miller Frontline Leadership Certificate in 1997.

## JUDY JOHNSON

As manager, **Judy Johnson** was very involved in setting up the operation of Shelton's book store on the new campus in 1997. She is also responsible for the college's copy center and mailroom. Mrs. Johnson is a graduate of Shelton State, receiving her Associate in Applied Science

Degree in business administration in 1987.

She and her husband have seven racking horses, two of which they show in competition. During the past nine years, Mrs. Johnson has won numerous awards while showing horses. She is the Grand Champion of the Gaited Division within the West Alabama Horseman Association for 1998. She was secretary for the West Alabama Horseman Association and the Hale County Riding Club.

## JEAN MACK

In 1974 **Jean Mack** received a certificate from C.A. Fredd Technical College. Because she believes strongly in education, she then entered Shelton's New Options program and in 1988 she received an Associate in Applied Science degree along with the Susie Burnum Memorial Scholarship. She is currently continuing her education at Shelton and at Stillman College.

In 1989 she became a full-time employee of C.A. Fredd Technical College, supervising the library services. After the merger between Fredd and Shelton in 1993, she assisted in the establishment of the C.A. Fredd Campus Library for Shelton State Community College. Today she supervises all aspects of the Fredd Campus Library, dealing not only with the books but also with audio visuals. She also serves on the Shelton State Alumni Council.

Mrs. Mack is an active member of the Adoptive/Foster Parent Association and received certification as an Adoptive Foster Parent in 1992. She assisted in organizing the One Church One Child Association of Tuscaloosa and played an important role in recruiting homes for children and young adults. She is an active member of Mt. Carmel C.M.E. where she serves as youth director and secretary to the Missionary Society.

## MARTHA KEY

Originally from Walker County, **Martha Key** entered Shelton State as a married adult student with two children. Today she lives in Coker, Alabama, and is completing her senior year at the University of Alabama. She also works full time at Shelton State as secretary to the registrar.

In addition to caring for her family, Mrs. Key has been actively involved at both Shelton State and the University of Alabama. In 1996, while at Shelton, she was the recipient of the James B. Allen Award and was a member of the *USA Today* All Academic Team. At the University of Alabama, she was named the Outstanding Management Student in 1998 and 1999 and was the recipient of the Jerry F. Wilson Scholarship in 1998 and 1999 and the special University Scholarship in 1999. She is a member of Blue Key, Gold Key, and Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Societies.



*Another Millennium Evening*

*Shelton's Black History Month program is a huge success! L-R: Charles Storey, Martha Hawkins, Louise Lewis, Dinah Walton, and Tim Lewis.*



*Tom Umphrey, Elmer Harris, and Terry Waters help kick off Shelton's Millennium Celebration.*



# Shelton State Looks To Future With Vision 2010

*What will Shelton be like in the year 2010? What courses and programs will the college offer?  
What will the makeup of the student body be like?*

**W**ITH THE completion of Shelton State's new Martin Campus, the college moved into what is considered a New Time, New World, and a New Shelton. With the new physical facility becoming the launching pad for the college's journey into the next century, Shelton is now ready to visualize and conceptualize a common and clearly defined direction for the institution that is symbolic of the shared hopes, dreams, and aspirations of the West Alabama community.

Various workshops and focus and visioning groups worked over a period of several years to complete the college's vision for the future. As the college contemplated its future, three external forces were identified that would weigh heavily on the college's ability to meet the challenges of the next decade and beyond. These challenges were technology, accountability, and competition.

Technology will continue to be a driver of change. Technology is creating new opportunities for innovative teaching and learning. New opportunities are emerging that will allow for a more efficient and effective service delivery that may change the college's perception of "service area," as

geographical and physical boundaries are eliminated.

Private and public sources continue to demand more accountability as evidence of effectiveness. This will require continuous planning and operations by the college. Shelton will look closely to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to provide guidance and direction in the future.

As competition is increased and education and training become everyone's business, Shelton will be required to document delivered value in order to gain and maintain a competitive edge in the future.

The importance of life-long learning as well as the need for multifaceted learning in light of the diversity of today's students were identified as key issues. Shelton must become a learner-based/learning institution. The college's structure, systems and culture as well as the roles of faculty and staff will be redefined. New reciprocal partnerships with community organizations will be developed in order to move Shelton in bold new directions using new resources. After much discussion and planning, a Vision Statement was adopted by the college:

## OUR VISION OF SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*A diverse, systematic and exciting, service-centered institution which makes a positive difference in the lives of our students and community.*

*An institution which places the highest value on teaching and learning.*

*An institution recognized for commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, for effective use of facilities and technology, and for opportunities provided for enrichment and growth.*

## 12 MONTHS TO MIDNIGHT

### Shelton State's Millennium Moments

**—IN JANUARY 1999** Shelton State Community College kicked off its celebration of the upcoming new Millennium with several Millennium Evenings and other scheduled events.

The first Millennium Evening was a political forum with some of the state's strongest leaders as speakers. Elmer Harris, president of Alabama Power Company, and Bill O'Connor, president of the Alabama Business Council, joined Shelton President Tom Umphrey for a panel discussion of what life can be like in Alabama in the 21st century.

The next Millennium Evening was a program featuring famed race car driver Bobby Allison whose motivational speech was on the value of education, especially technical education. This program was sponsored jointly by Shelton and the University of Alabama Student Chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

Also in January, the college joined with the Tuscaloosa International Friends to host a pot luck supper at the college for international students at Shelton, the University of Alabama, and Stillman College along with their Friendship Families. Over 250 people enjoyed an evening of fun and fellowship.

**—IN FEBRUARY** the Millennium focus was on Black History Month. A program entitled "Celebrating Black Future — Economy Empowerment for the New Millennium" featured some of the area's black leaders. Martha Hawkins, owner of Martha's Restaurant in Montgomery, Tim Lewis, president of T.A. Lewis and Associates, and Dinah Walton, owner of two Buffalo Phil's Restaurant franchises in Tuscaloosa, were the featured speakers.

**—IN MARCH**, activities included the Shelton State Career Fair and the Health Fair which was held in the Wellness Center. The Orpheus Quartet sponsored by The String Quartet Society of Tuscaloosa performed at Shelton State during the month.

**—IN APRIL** noted Alabama artist William Christenberry returned to his home county for an exciting evening. Christenberry, who now lives in Washington, D.C., entertained an audience of over 100 people with his



photographs and works that represent not only the history of the West Alabama area but Christenberry's growth as a nationally recognized artist as well.

Another major event in April was the black tie Stage and Screen Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Gala sponsored by Theatre Tuscaloosa and the Shelton Foundation. The late actress Tallulah Bankhead, actress and author Fannie Flag, and philanthropists Mr. and Mrs. Winton Blount were the first inductees into the Hall of Fame. This gala will now become an annual event at the college.

Theatre Tuscaloosa's first season in the Beantown Theatre was highly successful. In February, "Ain't Misbehaving" opened to delightful musical reviews. In March, one of Sondheim's most magical scores, "A Little Night Music," became a wonderful way to open the spring season at the college. "Always...Patsy Cline" played to packed houses in May, and "Annie Get Your Gun" will serve as a season finale in July and August.

**—IN JULY** a Millennium One Mile Sundown Run for all age groups was held in the Wellness Center with prizes and food for all age groups. Shelton sponsored the event in cooperation with the Tuscaloosa Runners Club.

**—IN SEPTEMBER** John Berendt's appearance at Shelton will be one of the major highlights of the Millennium Celebration. Other activities are scheduled during the fall and winter at the college.



*Noted Alabama artist William Christenberry entertains the audience during a Millennium Evening.*



# Community Support For The College Continues

**I**n April as part of a surprise reception, former State Senator Ryan deGraffenried was honored by having the college's lecture hall on the new campus named in his honor. The room is now officially the Ryan deGraffenried Jr. Lecture Hall.

The announcement was made by Shelton President Tom Umphrey, who praised the former senator for his support. "During the early planning stages for the new campus, Senator deGraffenried worked to secure the funding necessary to buy the property. Without his commitment, we would not have been able to purchase the 170-acre site which is now home for Shelton State," Umphrey said.

"DeGraffenried's accomplishments and work go far beyond Shelton State. Ryan deGraffenried is one of the major reasons Tuscaloosa is such a great place to live and work. He loves and cares deeply for the area," Umphrey said.

This year a large number of West Alabama leaders were honored for their support of Shelton's fundraising efforts. A number of classrooms, conference rooms, and other areas were dedicated in honor of various individuals. Rooms dedicated and the people responsible for the gifts include:

The Alabama Power Classroom, Mr. Terry Waters; The BellSouth Classroom, Mr. Dick Johnson; The Gloria Blackburn Classroom, Dr. and Mrs. John L. Blackburn; The John Brilbeck Classroom, Mr. John Brilbeck; The Bunn Construction Classroom, Mr. Sonny Bunn and Mr. Terry Bunn; The Claude Burns Conference Room, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Burns; The Cathy Christian Conference Room, Mrs. Lori Cannon and Family; The Compass Bank Classroom, Mr. Jon Carter; The Stacy Crocker Conference Room, Mr. and Mrs. John Crocker and Mr. Drew Linn; The Jack Davis Chemistry Lab, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bambarger; The BAMA Concrete Classroom, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Davis; The Tommy Hester Conference Room, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Hester; The Harold McAbee Classroom, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy McAbee, Mrs. Opal McAbee and Family; The Verta Barr Meherg Classroom, Mrs. Verta Barr Meherg and Mr. Jim Meherg; The Wallace and Ruby Miller Classroom, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Miller and Family; The Randall Publishing/OverDrive Magazine Classroom, Mr. Pettus Randall; The W. Paul Ray Conference Room, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ray; The Steve Shelton Conference Room, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Shelton; The Homer and Jimmie Young Classroom, Mr. and Mrs. Larry O'Neal and Mrs. Jimmie Young; Brooks-Cork Library, the Reese Phifer Family; Wilson Carr Rehearsal Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wilson; Frances McFarland Johnson Actor's Lounge, Frances McFarland Johnson; Bank of Moundville Dance Studio, Howell Poole; National Bank of Commerce Gallery, Tommy Hester; Bell South Art Gallery, Dick Johnson; Bean-Brown Theatre, A.H. Bean; Alabama Power Foundation Recital Hall, Terry Waters; Othni Alva & Sallie Mae Mitchell Conference Room, Dr. Thomas E. Umphrey and Family; Alda Ruth Umphrey Conference Room, Dr. Thomas E. Umphrey; Rick and Doris Harbin Lobby, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Harbin.



*The deGraffenried's enjoy a reception in their honor.*



*Sue and Steve Shelton are among those honored for their leadership.*

*L-R: Sandra Ray, Sue Shelton, Steve Shelton.*

\* It is the official policy of the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education, including all Postsecondary institutions under the control of the State Board of Education, that no person in Alabama shall, on the grounds of race, color, disability, sex, religion, creed, national origin or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or shall be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity or employment.

## THE SHELTON STATEMENT

Shelton State Community College  
9500 Old Greensboro Road  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
Permit No.  
293